

In re WILLIAMS ET AL., Application No. 09/752,422
Amendment A

REMARKS

The Office action dated October 4, 2004, and the references cited have been fully considered. In response, please enter the amendments presented herein and consider the following remarks. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested. No new matter is added herein.

Applicants appreciate the notification that claims 21-26 and 30 were allowed. Applicants herein have elected to take the allowed subject matter, and to let this patent application issue as it has been pending for a long duration, and to cancel the rejected claims without prejudice so as to reserve all rights to seek these and/or additional claims in a continuation application.

As such:

- Claims 1-20 and 27-29 have been canceled herein without prejudice.
- Dependent claim 22 is amended to depend from independent claim 21 (instead of from itself and Applicants appreciate this suggestion in the Office action), so Applicants request the § 112 rejection of claim 22 be withdrawn. Therefore, Applicants believe the claims set of claims 21-22 is ready for issuance.
- In terms of allowed independent claim 23, Applicants have amended previously allowed claim 23 to remove the claim element of "placing a packet containing the barrier state transition request in at least each of the output queues that are occupied by at least one packet" as this element is also recited in its original dependent claim 25 (where it is better placed), and the prior art neither teaches nor suggests claim 23 without this limitation for at least the reasons the Office allowed original claim 23. Also, dependent claims 24-26 are amended to clean them up by adding "said" to claim 24, and removing "further" from claims 25-26 to conform to current drafter preferences. Applicants believe the claims as amended to be allowable and in condition for issuance.

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- Independent claim 30 is not amended and therefore it is believed to be in condition for issuance as it was indicated as allowed in the Office action.
- Applicants have added two new claim sets (31-34 and 35-38), which correspond to the claim set of claims 23-26, but re-written in computer-readable media and means-plus-function formats, and therefore believe these claims are allowable for at least the reasons for allowance of claims 23-26.

Final Remarks. In view of the above remarks and for at least the reasons presented herein, all pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Office is respectfully requested to issue a timely Notice of allowance in this case. If, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Applicants believe no extension of time is required, but hereby petitions any such extension of time required and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any associated fees to Deposit Account No. 501430.

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Additionally, the Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefore, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time. Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee due any under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and § 1.17 associated with this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501430.

Respectfully submitted,
The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams

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By



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